THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) As per provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1979, the small scale units exempted from seeking price approvals under Para 13 and 14 are free to market their products through any other agency.

(b) and (c) The issue of exemption limit of Rs. 50 lakhs sales turnover and the prevailling practice of medium and large scale drug companies marketing the products of exempted companies are now under active examination of the Government.

Augmenting resources for development of petroleum sector

*257. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether for augmenting resources for development of petroleum sector, the Oil Industry (Development) Act was passed in 1974 to collect cess on domestic oil production;

(b) if so, what was the amount collected during each of the last three years and how much of it has been diverted to meet the deficit of the General Budget; and

(c) what is the likely impact thereof on the three new grassroot refineries at Karnal, Mangalore and Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The requisite information is given in the statement laid on the Table of the sabha.

Statement

(b) (i) The amount of cess on crude oil collected during each of the last three years was:

	(Rs. in crores)
1984-85 . .	843.53
1985-86 . .	872.92
1986-87 . .	981.30(provisional)

(ii) In accordance with the provisions of section 16 of the Act, the entire proceeds of cess are required to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf so provides, pay to the Oil Industry Development Fund such sums of money as it may think fit. In view of this, no diversion may be said to have taken place.

(c) Does not arise.

Oil wells drilled at Nariman, Kovilkalappal

*258. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many oil wells were drilled by ONGC at Nariman, Kovilkalappal etc. in Cauvery basin in Palk Bay till now;

(b) how many of these wells were found to contain oil, and gas indicating the estimated reserves and the depth of each well, and also the date when oil/gas were found therein;

(c) what had been the expenditure involved in respect of each well, and the total cost so involved;

(d) whether oil drilling operation has been resumed in those wells where it was suspended earlier; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the ONGC is likely to start commercial production from these wells and what are the future expansion plans in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF